

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 5 and 7-20 will have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of the subject matter. Claims 5 and 7-20 were previously withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a Restriction Requirement issued by the Examiner. In accordance with the requirements set forth in the Office Communication of December 23, 2008, these claims have now been canceled so as to place the present application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, as, by the cancellation of the above-noted non-elected and withdrawn from consideration claims, the present application is both in condition for allowance and in proper form for allowance. An action to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

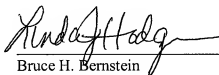
Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have canceled the non-elected claims without prejudice or disclaimer and requested passage of the present application to allowance, in due course.

The amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kazumasa AYUKAWA et al.

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Linda J. Hodge", is written over a horizontal line.

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